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U.S. Cong. H.R.

Statement on a bill to provide a
statue to Samuel J. Tilden at
Washington, D.C.



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STATUE TO SAMUEL J. TILDEN.

U. S. COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY, ~~U. S. C. P.~~
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., May 3, 1910.

Statement of Hon. William Sulzer, a Member of Congress from New York, on H. R. 24792, entitled "A bill to provide for the erection of a bronze statue to the memory of the late Samuel J. Tilden, at Washington, D. C.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCall). Mr. Sulzer, you may now proceed.

Mr. SULZER. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Committee: For many years I have introduced in Congress and have had pending before this Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives the following bill, which I now read:

[H. R. 24792] A bill to provide for the erection of a bronze statue to the memory of the late Samuel J. Tilden at Washington, District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the sum of fifty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose indicated, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended for the erection of a suitable bronze statue of the late Samuel J. Tilden.

SEC. 2. That a site for said statue shall be selected by a committee consisting of the Secretary of State, the chairmen of the Committees on the Library of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the Honorable John Bigelow, of New York; and that no part of the sum hereby appropriated shall be expended until a suitable site at Washington, District of Columbia, for the erection of said statue shall have been selected.

SEC. 3. That the above-designated committee shall select and approve the model and plans for said statue and have general supervision of the erection thereof: *Provided*, That the money hereby appropriated shall be drawn upon the requisition of the Secretary of State.

That bill speaks for itself, and I believe is in the usual form. I ask to have it reported. I believe Congress will pass it. In my judgment, the bill should be enacted into law. Samuel J. Tilden deserves well of his country, and there should be a statue to his memory in the Capitol of our Republic. Only partisanship can be blind to his civic virtues. As the years come and go the memory of his very name is a growing tower of strength for good in every righteous cause, an incentive in every public reform, and an example in every endeavor along philanthropic lines.

It is now nearly a century since Samuel J. Tilden was born in the little village of New Lebanon, Columbia County, N. Y., on the 9th day of February, 1814. He came of a sturdy stock and an honest race of God-fearing and liberty-loving people. The name of an ancestor, Nathaniel Tilden, of Tenterden, England, yeoman, and that

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of Lydia, his wife, with seven children, head the list of "such persons as embarked themselves in the good ship called the *Hercules*, to be therein transported to the plantation called New England, in America," from the port of Sandwich, England, in March, 1634. This Nathaniel Tilden had been mayor of Tenterden, as his uncle John had been before him, and as his cousin John was after him. This Tilden settled with his family at the little place of Scituate, whence the second generation of Tildens migrated to Lebanon, Conn. To Isaac Tilden, the great-grandfather of Samuel J., was born at this place, in 1729, a son named John, who settled in what was afterwards called New Lebanon, Columbia County, N. Y.

Samuel J. Tilden's father, Elam, the youngest of John Tilden's seven children, was born in 1781, and in 1802 married Polly Y. Jones, a descendant of William Jones, lieutenant-governor of the colony of New Haven. Eight children were born of this union, of whom Samuel J. was the fifth. The boy Samuel early developed great activity of mind and a remarkable command of language. He was observing and studious and gave much promise. His father, a farmer, who also carried on a small mercantile business, was an intimate friend of Martin Van Buren, and the political controversy of the time was part of the very atmosphere of the Tilden household. In his eighteenth year Samuel prepared an elaborate address, in regard to the issues of the pending state election, which was adopted as a party manifesto by the Democrats.

In 1832 Samuel J. Tilden entered Yale College, but almost at the outset his studies were interrupted by feeble health. He resumed them in 1834, when he entered the University of the City of New York. Here he completed his academic education, and devoted himself assiduously to the study of the law. While in college he wrote a series of papers in defense of President Van Buren's policy in regard to the United States bank. He made a celebrated plea for the independent treasury system, as opposed to the union of bank and State, in a speech delivered to his neighbors at New Lebanon in October, 1840.

On his admission to the bar Mr. Tilden began the practice of his profession in New York City, but continued to take an active part in politics. He was elected to the assembly in 1845, and while there was chairman of a committee appointed to inquire into the causes of the antirent disorders, and the masterly report on the whole subject of the great leasehold estates and their tenants was almost entirely his work. He was a member of the state constitutional convention of 1846, and did much to mold in shape that great fundamental law. The three most memorable cases in which Mr. Tilden was employed as a lawyer were the trial of the contested election of his friend Azariah C. Flagg, as comptroller of New York City; the opposition on the part of the heirs of the murdered Doctor Burdell to Mrs. Cunningham's application for letters of administration on his estate; and the defense of the Pennsylvania Coal Company to the claim of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company for payment of extra tolls. The hearing of the last-named case consumed seventy days, and Mr. Tilden's argument in the case was a marvel of analytical ingenuity and constructive ability. From 1855 to 1870 more than half of the great railway corporations north of the Ohio and between the Hudson and Missouri rivers were at some time clients of Mr.

Tilden. He was the author of many of the plans of reorganization that were rendered necessary by the early financial necessities of these companies.

In 1848 Mr. Tilden took a leading part in the Free Soil revolt within the Democratic party. In 1851 he made a strong plea for respect to the Constitution in dealing with the question of improvements on the state canals. In 1855 he was the candidate for attorney-general on the ticket of the "Soft-Shell" Democrats. Throughout the civil war he maintained that the struggle against the confederacy could be successfully waged without resorting to extra-constitutional modes of action. By 1868 Mr. Tilden had definitely assumed the leadership of the Democratic party in New York State. To the enactment of what was known as "the Tweed charter" of 1870, which confirmed the control of the ring over the government and revenues of New York City, Mr. Tilden offered the most determined opposition. Besides the Tweed ring, to the almost equally notorious persons who were engaged, by the aid of the courts, in plundering the stockholders of the Erie Railway Mr. Tilden had made himself similarly obnoxious. He was one of the founders of the bar association, which was an organized protest against the perversion of the machinery of justice. In the impeachment proceedings against the corrupt judges in 1872 Mr. Tilden's was the direct mind, and it was mainly for this purpose that he agreed to serve again as a member of the assembly.

On the exposure of the methods of plunder of the Tweed ring, which was made in the columns of the New York Times in July, 1871, Mr. Tilden undertook, through an examination of the bank accounts of the chief members of the combination, a legal demonstration of the share of the spoils received by each, and the tables presented with his affidavit furnished the basis of the civil and criminal proceedings brought against the ring and its agents. He threw all his energy into the prosecution of suits in the name of the State against the men who had seized the machinery of local justice, and he resisted successfully the efforts of the ring and the politicians in its service to retain their hold on the state Democratic organization in the autumn of 1871. In 1874 he was the Democratic candidate for governor, and was elected by a plurality of 50,000 over Governor John A. Dix. His special message to the legislature on the extravagance and dishonesty that had characterized the management of the canals made a deep impression. During his administration the new capitol building at Albany was begun. He made an ideal governor—one of the very best in the history of the State. His public papers are models and demonstrate his sagacity and his statesmanship.

In June, 1876, the national Democratic convention, assembled at St. Louis, nominated Samuel J. Tilden for the Presidency. As finally declared, the electoral vote was 185 for Mr. Hayes and 184 for Mr. Tilden. The popular vote, as counted, gave Tilden 4,284,265, Hayes 4,033,295, Cooper 81,737, and Smith 9,522. Mr. Tilden was opposed to the Electoral Commission, declaring his belief in "the exclusive jurisdiction of the two Houses of the Congress to count the electoral votes by their own servants and under such instruction as they might deem proper to give."

If Tilden had raised his hand in protest, civil war would have ensued. During this exciting and trying period he demonstrated his patriotism.

From that time till the end of his life he was first among the leaders of the national Democracy, and the pressure for his renomination in 1880 became so great that his friends, who knew his fixed determination not to be again a candidate, appealed to him to write a formal announcement of his resolution, which was addressed to the delegates from his own State. Four years later this declaration had to be repeated. His last important contribution to the history of his time was a communication to Hon. John G. Carlisle, Speaker of the House of Representatives, in regard to the urgent necessity of liberal appropriations for such a system of coast defenses as would place the United States in a position of comparative safety against naval attack.

Samuel J. Tilden died at his country house, "Greystone," Westchester County, N. Y., on the 4th day of August, 1886. He never married. Under the provisions of Mr. Tilden's will, the greater portion of his fortune, estimated at more than \$5,000,000, was devoted to public uses, the chief of which was the establishment and endowment in the city of New York of a free public library.

The great power of Mr. Tilden consisted in his ability to concentrate his mind upon his work. Where others vaporized he crystallized. The realm of speculative philosophy had no attraction for him. He reduced statesmanship to one of the exact sciences. He treated a problem in government as he would a problem in mathematics; he took all the factors, discovered their relative value, and then used them. Glittering generalities were his abhorrence. Facts were his friends and figures his delight. His mental equipment was large; his horizon broad; his gift of prevision amounted almost to prophesy. He was a man of action. He did things. Few have so fully accomplished the tasks set before them. Few men have received so many unsought honors.

Out of this power of concentration sprang two anomalous characteristics—absolute fearlessness linked to great caution. Nobody who knew Mr. Tilden ever dreamed of frightening him. He was insensible to threats. He knew the right, and never faltered. He disliked those who took counsel of their apprehensions. He was cautious. He never moved until he had provided against every possible contingency. He vindicated his courage in his designs and displayed his caution in the execution thereof. He did a bold thing in the summer of 1875, when, as governor of New York, he promised the people in his speeches at Buffalo, Syracuse, and Utica, that their taxes should be reduced by \$6,000,000. But he did a cautious thing when he fixed the sum at six millions while he was paving the way for the reduction of eight millions—which was finally effected.

Samuel J. Tilden was no sentimentalist, but he possessed a great deal of genuine sentiment. He was loyal to every principle and steadfast to every ideal. Friendship meant more to him than to the poets who sing its praises or to the weak creatures who yearn for it without understanding the possibilities of sacrifice which it involves. When he was past forty years of age he voluntarily took upon himself pecuniary obligations equal to all the money he had earned by twenty years of laborious efforts, that those who were bound to him by the ties of relationship might escape a threatened reverse of fortune and that the declining years of his aged mother might be full of peace and free from sorrow. Judge Martin Grover, of the New York court of appeals, who was one of the wisest jurists and closest observers of

character that this country has ever produced, speaking of Mr. Tilden one day long before his nomination for governor, remarked: "That man has given away more money and made less fuss about it than any other man in the State of New York. He doesn't give on any abstract theory of philanthropy, but because his friends get themselves into trouble, and he can not resist the temptation to help them out."

It is almost impossible to sound the depths of the subtle nature of Samuel J. Tilden. He was a great student. His intellectual resources were inexhaustible. He lived in New York City for more than fifty years, mingling in the best society of the metropolis; but the manner of the student was upon him at all times. The great problems which he sought to solve—the problems that had eluded the efforts of other statesmen—engaged his attention to the time of his death. He prized at its full value the relaxation and comfort which his home life afforded him, but the largest share of his time for fifty years had been devoted to hard work, and had he so wished he could not have released himself from those habits of industry which were woven into the warp and woof of his very nature.

Years ago Martin Van Buren said of Samuel J. Tilden, "He is the most unambitious man I ever knew." His acquaintance with Tilden's boyhood, his appreciation of his talents, and his knowledge of the opportunities for advancement which he had rejected, led him to make the remark. He could not understand how a man might gratify a rational ambition by attending strictly to his professional pursuits, winning the confidence of those around him, and discharging faithfully his duties as a citizen. Yet that sphere of life filled the measure of Mr. Tilden's ambition, and would have filled it to the end if he had not been driven forward by circumstances stronger than he could control. He has been charged with overweening political ambition, and yet the truth is that he never sought a public position in his life. He has been accused of working for his own advancement. The accusation is without justification. Mr. Tilden worked for the advancement of a cause which he believed to be essential to the preservation of democratic institutions. He worked for an end, but he was no self-seeker. If he could have found his alter ego—some man who possessed the courage, the efficiency, the honesty, the energy, the intelligence, and the desire to bring about the reforms which he sought and which the country needed—he would have gladly supported that man for the Presidency in 1876, and remained in retirement himself. But the man was not to be found. Tilden had to lead, because he was in front—far ahead.

In 1862 Mr. Tilden told Secretary Stanton that a great military genius rose only once in two or three centuries. A great political reformer rises hardly as often as a military genius. The civic hero's task is more difficult, his labor more thankless, and his reward less certain. If it be ambition which induces an honest and fearless man to grapple with public thieves, well intrenched in power, then it is the same sort of ambition which prompts the patriotic soldier to volunteer to lead a forlorn hope in battle. Sometimes the leader of a forlorn hope succeeds, and great is his glory. Oftener the civic hero fails and is forgotten. The chances are so much against him that his very existence demonstrates his unselfishness.

Samuel J. Tilden was a great man and a true man; a lover of his country; a believer in the supremacy of law; the friend of every righteous cause that lacked assistance. He stood for honesty in

politics—for the eternal principles of truth and right and justice in public affairs. He believed in fair play and equal opportunity for all. He was broad and liberal in his views; had charity for all; trusted the people, and never lost faith in humanity. He was an eminent lawyer, a philosophical statesman, a great civic reformer, an ideal citizen of the purest patriotism, and a philanthropist whose benefactions will benefit mankind for generations yet to come. He was the foe of every public evil, and in his lifetime he did more to correct governmental abuses than any man since the days of Thomas Jefferson. He knew himself: he believed in the destiny of the Republic, and he made the corner stone of his political convictions that cardinal principle—equal rights to all and special privileges to none. He was a Democrat through and through—a statesman of the old school. He belongs to the nation. He deserves a monument.

He was an indefatigable worker and accomplished what he purposed. He believed in plod and progress. He had eloquence, patience and confidence, energy and industry. He had tenacity of purpose and always bided his time. He never relied on luck or trusted to chance. He met Napoleon's test—he did things. He was the implacable foe of private monopoly, of unjust taxation, of organized greed, of discriminating legislation that robs the many for the benefit of the few, and of every special privilege. He was a faithful public official, and preached the doctrine that public office is a public trust. He was a reformer who reformed. He did not talk about a policy one day and abandon it the next. What he promised he consummated. He never indulged in theatricals; he was not a spectacular statesman. He has had many feeble imitators, but no equals. At a critical time in the life of the Republic he began the work of civic purification: he foresaw the coming storm of the indignation of an outraged people, and the great work he began will not culminate until civic righteousness is enthroned in every municipality and in every capital of America. The great work for reform that he accomplished will grow brighter and brighter as the years come and go, until it finally becomes his most lasting monument, more enduring than marble and brass, and forever sacred in the hearts of his grateful countrymen.

Tilden was the great American reformer. The enthusiasm for civic righteousness which his memory inspires is not of the frothy sort. It is not ephemeral. It is based on the sound judgment of thinking men, not on their impulses, and is therefore enduring. He was honest. He was sincere. If the Democratic party had not been convinced that he was the best representative of its best ideas he would not have been nominated. From the very first there was a sanguine feeling of safety under his wise and sagacious leadership. This feeling of safety begets confidence, confidence begets buoyancy, and buoyancy begets enthusiasm, which sweeps down barriers and makes heroes of us all.

In his day Samuel J. Tilden was the ablest financier in the United States. His views fifty years ago are the statutes now. He never made a mistake on a question of finance. His judgment was always sound. He knew while others thought. These are broad assertions, but they are fully justified by the facts. His counsel was sought for over thirty years by the safe and conservative public men of affairs of the country, and not by the stockjobbers and reckless speculators, for with them he refused to have any dealings.

Samuel J. Tilden was a great man—a great lawyer, a great patriot, a great statesman, a great philanthropist—and he deserves a monument in the capital of his country. If he had become President he would have entered upon the duties and the responsibilities that would have fallen upon him not as one entering upon a holiday recreation, but very much in that spirit of patriotic consecration in which a great soldier enters a battle for human rights. He had drunk deep at the fountains of freedom and of patriotism. He gave to his country that love which others yield to wife and children. He was whole in himself, possessing firmness without obstinacy, courage without bravado, religion without cant. He was no hypocrite. To the call of civic duty he never hesitated. The traditions of the fathers were his inspiration. He stood for equal rights to all. He loved justice. The Constitution was his sheet anchor. He had no personal ends to serve, no other ambition than to save the Republic from the canker of corruption which ate out the heart of every republic of ancient times. He believed we were only trustees for future generations, and would be recreant to our trust if we failed to hand down to them unimpaired the free institutions we now enjoy.

Gentlemen, in my judgment, patriotic America agrees with me that Samuel J. Tilden deserves a monument. In counting up that long array of names whom the people have honored by electing to the highest office in their power, the future historian will linger long to inquire whether it was a fraud or a blunder that robbed the great reformer of New York of a seat that he was so eminently qualified to fill, and regarding that I have no fears as to the final verdict impartial history will record in the annals of America.

Letter from the Hon. John Bigelow.

21 GRAMERCY PARK, May 11, 1910.

HON. WILLIAM SULZER.

DEAR SIR: I have learned with great pleasure of your efforts to secure the authority and aid of Congress to erect a suitable monument at the capital to commemorate the public services of the late Samuel J. Tilden.

Among the great public benefactors of this nation it would be difficult to name another whose public services were indebted in so inconsiderable a degree to the prestige and advantages of office. It would be still more difficult to name another who made equal sacrifices of time and fortune for the accomplishment of the memorable reforms in the municipal and state governments of New York which are imperishably associated with his name. But it would be impossible to name another governor any of whose messages were published in full by the press of so many other States of the Union, or even in any other State of the Union, than his own, as it was the distinguished fortune of nearly all of his to be. I think I shall be doing no injustice to any citizen, governor, or President of the United States when I say that the public papers of Mr. Tilden have never been surpassed for soundness of statesmanship, lucidity of expression, and unassailable logic by any other American statesman, whether in or out of office.

Though prevented by the limited means of his parents and a delicate constitution of his own from enjoying but very limited advantages of early education, and from his early life dependent upon his

own resources for a livelihood, he rose to a commanding position in the legal profession and amassed by it what in his day was regarded as an enviable fortune. After providing generously for his kin—he never married—four-fifths at least of his large fortune he bequeathed to his executors as his trustees for the establishment of a library in the city in which his money had been earned. The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundation in a few months will give to the American public one of the half dozen largest collections of books in the world, stored by the munificence of the New York municipality in one of the most perfectly equipped structures for its purpose in the world.

If the United States has produced any statesman, barrister, or citizen whose private and public character entitles him to a memorial which shall serve to recall a character to be admired, an example to be imitated, and a career in which succeeding generations will take increasing pride, it was Samuel J. Tilden.

I doubt if your colleagues can make any appropriation likely to commend itself to so large a proportion of the people of the United States to-day as that for which you are—I hope successfully—applying.

Yours, very respectfully,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Editorial from the Lynchburg News, dated May 11, 1910.

PROPOSED STATUE TO TILDEN.

The resolution introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Sulzer, of New York, providing for the erection of a statue of Samuel J. Tilden in Washington by the National Government ought to have favorable action. Mr. Tilden stands out in the postbellum history of the country as one of the great figures of his time—as a man whose influence and qualities of political leadership, whose high order of statesmanship and national patriotism did so combine as to present his name to posterity, a fit subject for distinguished and lasting honor. A monument to his memory is not needed to secure the more firmly and already well-established place in the galaxy of great American statesmen gone, but its presence in Washington, as contemplated by the Sulzer bill, will nevertheless reflect a national recognition of his worth well calculated to prove a source of grateful satisfaction to millions of American citizens.

The fact, however, that such a monument would constantly serve to recall the dramatic crisis in Mr. Tilden's public career may perhaps be regarded as the one serious obstacle in the way of the Sulzer resolution. For it is a matter of history that he was elected President of the United States in 1876, and that through the subtle machinations of powerful Republican leadership in Congress was robbed of the office, and the majestic principle of majority rule as defined by the people was thus ruthlessly trampled under the heel of legislative tyranny and malpractice. The further we get away from that eventful period in American politics the wider is becoming the range of even Republican admission that "His Fraudulency" is a title altogether appropriate as a designation of Rutherford B. Hayes. The burden of the resultant blame and shame rests to-day upon the Republican party. It constitutes an ugly smear upon the Republican record which time instead of obliterating is bringing out in bolder relief.

And this being so, the Tilden statue proposition is likely, we fear, to be opposed by the "powers that be" in the Republican party.

And yet in the course which Mr. Tilden pursued in 1876, when confronted with the presence of the stupendous political felony designed to deprive him of the Presidency, resides one of his strongest claims upon the exalted esteem of succeeding generations and the approving verdict of history. For his conduct then—his submission to the terms and conditions by which the presidential theft of 1876 was made possible; his brave acquiescence in the result and his earnest and pronounced attitude in appealing to Democrats everywhere to peaceably accept that result, may well be regarded as a sublime lesson on self abnegation and sacrifice of self in order that thereby the public weal might be the more surely safeguarded. This order of patriotism is the sort that speaks in the language of results; that commits a man's destiny to the well done of the to-morrow of history—that writes him great indeed. Better, far better to pass into the future with Tilden's fame and Tilden's record than to have passed four years in the White House as did Mr. Hayes, having always above him a cloud of doubt as to the honesty and rightfulness of his tenure.

We shall watch the fate of the Sulzer resolution with no little interest—prepared to witness its defeat, but hoping for its passage and ready to applaud a Republican majority in Congress if it proves equal to the demands of this so inviting an opportunity to rise above partisan considerations and do a right and noble thing.

Editorial from the Advocate, Newark, Ohio, dated May 10, 1910.

Congressman Sulzer has introduced a bill for a statue of Samuel Jones Tilden in Washington. There has never been the equal of Mr. Tilden's fight against the Tweed ring in New York City, and the canal ring in New York State, and Mr. Tilden is the only man who was ever elected President and counted out. If he had raised his hand, there would have been civil war. The Democratic party would have seated him by force if he had merely given the signal. But he sacrificed his rights and the rights of his party rather than cause bloodshed. He deserves a monument.

Editorial from the Troy Press, dated May 12, 1910.

William Sulzer wants Congress to put up a statue to Samuel J. Tilden in Washington. Why Tilden in preference to any one of a score of eminent lawyers? If Mr. Sulzer feels that Washington is incomplete without Tilden, why not put him in the Statuary Hall in the Capitol?—Syracuse Post-Standard.

Obviously, because Mr. Tilden was elected President of the United States, and was the innocent victim of a colossal conspiracy which deprived him of his rights and the country of his splendid service as a statesman. As a Democrat and admirer of the most illustrious and intellectual of New York reformers, Mr. Sulzer believes that the nation would honor itself by honoring Samuel J. Tilden. Furthermore, no statesman of his day had such a mastery of the fundamental principles of statesmanship; he was one of the greatest and best of governors, and would have been equally eminent among the list of

Presidents. However, he was defrauded, and Mr. Sulzer would not expect the Republican party to confess its guilt by voting a memorial for the sage of Greystone.

Editorial from the New York Sun, dated May 8, 1910.

A STATUE OF A GREAT AMERICAN.

Representative Sulzer has introduced in the House, and the Committee on Library now has under consideration, a bill providing for the erection in the city of Washington by the Federal Government of a statue of Samuel J. Tilden of New York.

In every sane attempt to improve the administration of governmental affairs, in every intelligent effort to better the conditions of public life, in every movement designed to rid legislation and the enforcement of laws of favoritism, fraud, and trickery, the spirit of Tilden persists and finds expression. The work that he did, the methods that his extraordinary intelligence devised and approved, constitute to-day the foundation and plans for reforms continuously in progress but as yet unfinished.

There is no partisanship in this movement to honor one of the greatest of America's political philosophers and practical statesmen. The tribute has been too long delayed. Mr. Tilden's fame belongs to the nation. The appropriation asked for by Mr. Sulzer's bill should be granted promptly by the Sixty-first Congress.

Editorial from the Philadelphia Record, dated May 9, 1910.

Congressman Sulzer has introduced a bill for a statue of Samuel Jones Tilden in Washington. There has never been the equal of Mr. Tilden's fight against the Tweed ring in New York City and the canal ring in New York State, and Mr. Tilden is the only man who was ever elected President and counted out. If he had raised his hand there would have been civil war. The Democratic party would have seated him by force if he had merely given the signal. But he sacrificed his rights and the rights of his party rather than cause bloodshed. He deserves a monument.

Editorial from the Washington Post, dated May 22, 1910.

TILDEN AND COLORADO.

And that recalls that the admission of Colorado as a State determined the result of a presidential election. Eugene Hale (Republican) and Samuel J. Randall (Democrat) fought the proposition; but the sentiment that we must have the "Centennial State" overwhelmed them, and a Republican Senate and a Democratic House initiated Colorado into the Union just one hundred years after Thomas Jefferson reported to the Continental Congress the Declaration of Independence.

There was a lobby here—not a corrupt lobby—from Colorado composed of Democrats and Republicans. The Democrats persuaded the House of Representatives that if admitted Colorado would surely go Democratic that year; the Republicans convinced the Senate that Colorado would go Republican, and so she did, casting three votes for Hayes in the electoral college. Had the thing been postponed for a year, Tilden would have had an undisputed title to the Presidency.

Statehood should not be a political question; and the hesitancy of a Republican Congress to admit Arizona and New Mexico will tend to make both Democratic, as in the case of Oklahoma.

Editorial from the Washington Post, dated May 5, 1910.

SAMUEL J. TILDEN.

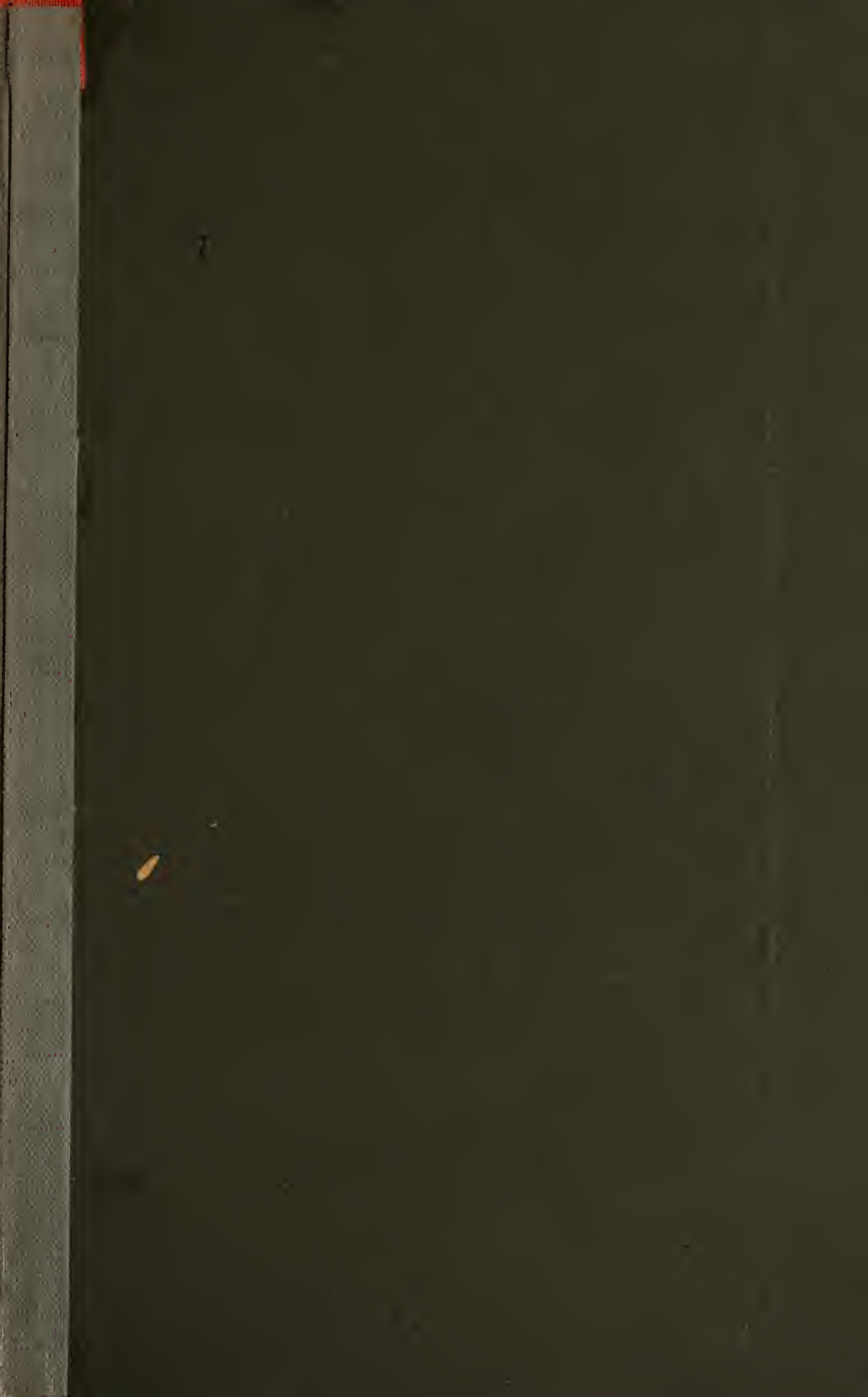
There are shrewd observers, of whom Colonel Watterson is one, who hold that Samuel J. Tilden was the greatest political philosopher this country has produced since the adoption of the Federal Constitution. He was gifted with a remarkable clearness of intellect, and ere he was out of his teens he was consulted and his suggestions accepted by such veteran statesmen as Martin Van Buren and by such eminent thinkers as William Cullen Bryant. His disciples, and they are pretty nearly all who have read the political writings of Mr. Tilden, look upon him as not only the most consummate practical politician of his time, but as the leading constructive statesman of his generation. Had Mr. Lincoln chosen him Secretary of the Treasury, the war of 1861-65 would have been paid for in coin, and its cost would have been less than one-half, in congressional appropriations, what it was. He was an antislavery man and voted the Free Soil ticket in 1848 for President, and had the North followed his counsel slavery would have died a natural death and without the firing of one hostile gun.

Tilden smote Tammany when it was at its zenith in power, insolence, and corruption, and it withered. He did more: he drove the canal ring from the public trough, purified the public service, reduced annual expenses \$7,000,000—equal to \$17,000,000 to-day—and gave the Empire State the most efficient administration it has ever had.

He ranked with the leaders of the bar in the generation of O'Connor, Field, Evarts, and others of that caliber. In the frailest of bodies he carried the sanest of minds. But that his letter opposing the Eight to Seven Commission was suppressed he would have entered upon the great magistracy to which the people had chosen him.

Samuel J. Tilden deficient in ideals! Nobody ever said so who read the writings of the man. For profundity of political thought no one in search of it can neglect the preachments of this statesman who was offered the Presidency for a certain sum in hand paid and refused it.





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